

**Question for written answer E-004108/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Clarifications necessary as regards protection of the best interests of the child and respect for parental rights

The Commission recently published a document on the new Equality Strategy 2026-2030 in which it states that it will ‘facilitate exchanges of best practices among Member States to support the development of legal gender recognition procedures based on self-determination that are free from age restrictions’.

This has raised significant concerns among parents in many Member States, and especially in Romania, as it means that children would be able to choose their own gender at any age. Parents fear that proposals such as this may affect their right to protect their children and ensure their balanced development.

Consequently:

1. How will the Commission ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is fully respected when practices in the field of the recognition of gender identity in minors are being promoted?
2. How can the Commission guarantee that such practices do not affect the right of parents to protect their children and ensure their emotional stability, well-being and safety by assuring their balanced development?

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